AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claim Listing:

Claims 1-10: (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor, comprising:

a body ~~capable of~~ suitable for being suspended and lowered into the vessel during the operation without being connected to the vessel or a pump connected to the vessel;

a tool attached to the body for at least one of repairing and inspecting an interior of a the pump in the vessel;

a guide having an inclined surface with respect to a vertical axis of the body when the body is suspended, wherein the guide is movably supported at a lower portion of the body so that the inclined surface of the guide is first inserted into the pump when the body is suspended and lowered into the vessel.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the guide includes at least one of a guide rod and a guide surface inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to the vertical axis.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the guide is freely supported at the lower portion of the body and inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to the vertical axis due to gravitational force.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the guide is biased to return to a predetermined angle with respect to the body.

15. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein an angle between the guide and the body is adjustable.

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the tool commonly serves as the guide.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11, wherein the body includes:

at least 3 members interconnected by joints, at least one of the joints being at least one of a rotational joint and a bending joint; and

a plurality of extendable supports capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

18. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11 further comprising:

a first plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

19. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 18 further comprising:

a second plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a second plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

20. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 11 wherein, the body includes a plurality of joints, the joints including a joint that rotates around the vertical axis and a joint that adjusts an angle with respect to the vertical axis.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing an operation in a pressure vessel of a nuclear reactor, comprising:

a body capable of being suspended and lowered into the pressure vessel during the operation without mechanical coupling to the pressure vessel or a pump connected to the pressure vessel;

a tool attached to the body for at least one of repairing and inspecting an interior of the pump in the pressure vessel;

a guide capable of being inclined with respect to a vertical axis of the body when the body is suspended, wherein the guide is movably supported at a lower portion of the body so that the guide is inserted into the pump along a tapering surface of an opening in the pump when the body is suspended and lowered in the pressure vessel.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21,

wherein the guide is freely supported at the lower portion of the body and inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to the vertical axis due to gravitational force.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein the guide is biased to return to a predetermined angle with respect to the body.

24. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein an angle between the guide and the body is adjustable.

25. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein the tool commonly serves as the guide.

26. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21, wherein the body includes:

at least 3 members interconnected by joints, at least one of the joints being at least one of a rotational joint and a bending joint; and

a plurality of extendable supports capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

27. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21 further comprising:

a first plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a first plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

28. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 27 further comprising:

a second plurality of extendable supports attached to the body and capable of stabilizing the body against a second plurality of interior surfaces of the pump.

29. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for executing an operation in a vessel of a nuclear reactor according to claim 21 wherein, the body includes a plurality of joints, the joints including a joint that rotates around the vertical axis and a joint that adjusts an angle with respect to the vertical axis.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein an orientation of the guide is adaptively varied by a moveable support so as to correspond to an interior surface of the pump as the guide is inserted into the pump.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein an orientation of the guide is adaptively varied by a moveable support so as to generally align with a tapered surface of an opening in the pump when the body is suspended and lowered into the pressure vessel.